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# Alfalfa

An Outstanding Crop  
For Pasture, Hay and  
Soil Improvement



A good root system on a 4-year-old Alfalfa plant. The fine roots and nodules have been removed. To put nitrogen in the soil the roots must have nodules. To this end inoculation of the seed just before planting is recommended.

SF-178

L2-12M

# Profitable F

## For Hay

As a hay crop, Alfalfa has no equal in yielding ability, feeding value, and low cost of production. Dairy farmers now quite generally recognize that Alfalfa will produce more tons of hay per acre, that Alfalfa hay will produce more milk with less grain feeds, that a good Alfalfa field standing several years saves labor. These facts are prompting most farmers to plant Alfalfa with the prospect of establishing a permanent hay field with this high yielding and high feeding value crop. Alfalfa should not be cut for hay the first season.

## For Pasture

Alfalfa is one of the best pastures for hogs and may be used as a supplementary pasture for cattle and other live stock if care is used to avoid bloating. Except for hogs, Alfalfa is more valuable as a pasture when used in combination with Bromus or other grasses and other legumes. Alfalfa should never be pastured until well established, never grazed too close or so late in the fall that it will not go into the winter with enough growth for cover.

Note: For the use of Alfalfa in permanent pasture mixtures, write to Northrup, King & Co., Minneapolis, Minn., for folder on "Permanent Pastures."

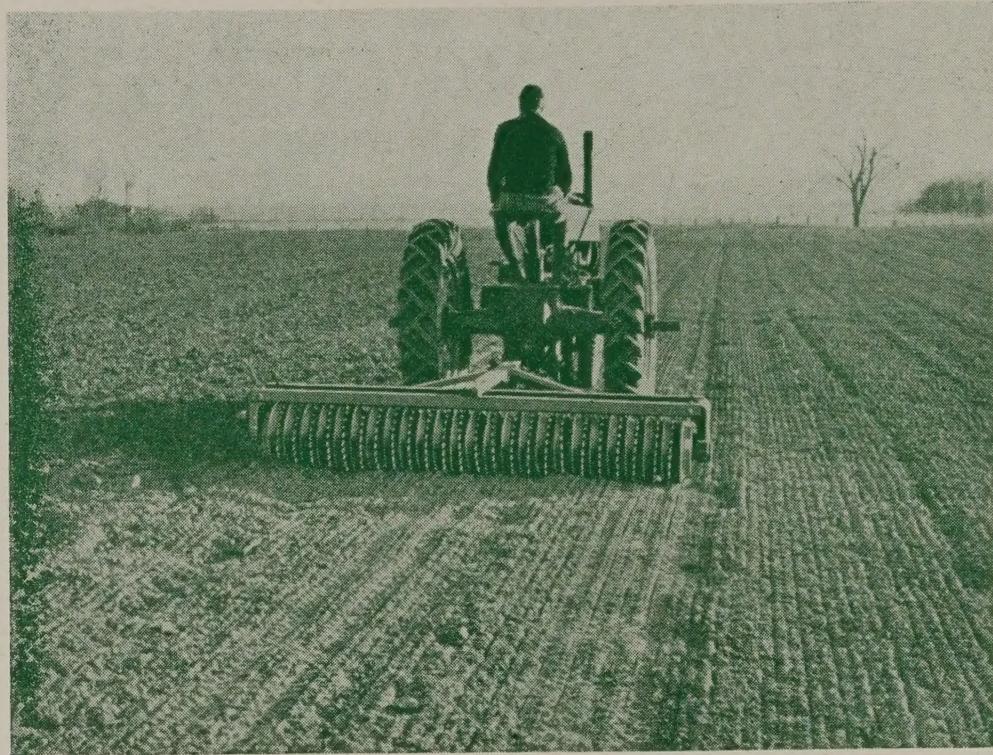
## Culture

A good stand of Alfalfa is as easily obtained as a good stand of any Clover provided certain good farming practices are followed. Failures are mostly due to:

1. Improper seed bed preparation.
2. Lack of inoculation.
3. Lack of lime.
4. Too deep seeding.
5. Heat and drought damage when nurse crop is removed.
6. Seeding too late in the summer so that the plants do not become properly established for winter.



# Farming Inclu



Pulverizer and Packer making an excellent seed bed by pulverizing, mulching and packing the soil after the soil has been plowed and disced.

## Soil Preparation

It is important that the seed bed should be firm below and mellow on top, and as free from weeds as possible. On fairly heavy soil, fall plowed land, well disced and harrowed, is usually satisfactory, although the use of a cultipacker or corrugated roller is ideal in preparing a seed bed. On spring plowed land and on light soils it is always advisable to roll the seed bed before seeding.

## Inoculation

On fields where Alfalfa has not been grown successfully before, the use of a good commercial inoculant is necessary.

## Lime

Some soils are sour—that is, contain acid which prevents successful Alfalfa culture unless corrected. Application of ground limestone neutralizes this acid and puts the soil in the condition which Alfalfa requires. It is well to have your soil tested by your experiment station or county agent before planting Alfalfa. If it is acid, lime must be applied before Alfalfa is successful. Application of lime is not expensive and pays a good dividend.



An Alfalfa Field  
To obtain suc

# Alfalfa

## Time of Planting

1. Except on sandy soils or on high land that is likely to be dry, Alfalfa can be planted in early spring with a nurse crop of grain or flax. As a nurse crop, the seeding rate of flax is usually 30 to 42 pounds per acre. The seeding rate of grain as a nurse crop is not much over half the usual planting rate. As a rule it is better if the nurse crop is taken off before a rain or during unsettled weather if the young Alfalfa plants have made a good start. However, if drought occurs and it appears there is not sufficient moisture for both the Alfalfa and the nurse crop, it is advisable to remove the nurse crop, leaving a stubble 5 to 6 inches high. If the nurse crop is left to mature, the shocks should be removed as soon as possible.

2. Summer seeding without a nurse crop is usually very satisfactory, particularly on sandy land or on high land. Summer seeding permits thorough fallowing to kill the weeds before the Alfalfa is planted, and if the seed bed is kept prepared, Alfalfa can be seeded any time when moisture conditions are most favorable provided it is done early enough to permit the plants to become well established before freezing. If for any reason the first seeding should be unsuccessful, the seed bed can be quickly prepared again for a second seeding the same year.

3. Alfalfa can also be planted to good advantage in corn at the time of last cultivation, or on well disced land after a crop of canning peas has been removed.



eld like this makes money for you above ground and below ground.  
ch a stand it pays to prepare soil carefully and use good seed.

# Seeding Alfalfa

**D**ON'T seed too deeply. Alfalfa should never be seeded deeper than 1 inch even on light soil. For that reason, drilling is not usually advisable. When sown with a nurse crop, Alfalfa should be broadcast from the seed attachment of the drill, although it can be broadcast with any kind of a seeder or by hand either before or after the nurse crop is drilled.

On fall plowed, heavy land where the seed bed is firm underneath, a light harrowing crosswise to the direction of the drill is usually sufficient for covering the seed.

On light soils and spring plowing, rolling is desirable. Where a corrugated roller or cultipacker has been used to prepare the seed bed, the same implement may be used after harrowing crosswise to the previous rolling to pack the ground above the seed.

## Seeding Rate

For best results, from 15 to 20 pounds per acre is the proper rate of seeding.

# Alfalfa Varieties

## Grimm Alfalfa

Generally accepted as one of the hardest strains of Alfalfa. Its blossoms usually show considerable variegation in color and the root type is more spreading and low set.

## Cossack Alfalfa

Another variegated strain originally introduced from Russia. It is considered about as winter hardy as Grimm.

## Ladak Alfalfa

A relatively new variety from Northern India. Ladak has shown some promise as being more wilt resistant than some other strains, but it recovers slowly from cutting and does not appear to be as good a yielder as other strains. As yet it is in very limited production.

# Alfalfa Varieties

Continued from preceding page

## Minnesota Variegated

Produced under severe conditions in Northern Minnesota. The variegated blossoms indicate that most of the producing fields that have survived the extreme cold of winters and heat of summers were from original plantings of Grimm Alfalfa.

## Canadian Variegated

A strain similar to Minnesota Variegated but grown in Canada.

## Montana Grown Alfalfa

## Idaho Grown Alfalfa

## Utah Grown Alfalfa

The above strains are hardy and well adapted to planting in the Northwest.

Seed of these origins is often referred to as Northwestern Grown Alfalfa.

Because of the uncertainties of Alfalfa seed production, supplies from some origins may be in limited quantities or even unobtainable in any certain year. Usually higher prices rule on the strains of smaller production.

Northrup, King & Co.'s Northland Brand Alfalfa is dependable and can be obtained in all the above strains and origins.

Grimm, Cossack and Ladak varieties are obtainable in official sealed bags. Other strains carry U. S. D. A. tags guaranteeing origin, except that all Canadian grown seed is stained 1% violet under Government supervision before being permitted entry to this country.

Produced by the Service Department  
of  
**Northrup, King & Co.**

Seedsmen Since 1884

Minneapolis, Minn.

